

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application. Claims 11-20 stand withdrawn. By this Amendment, claims 11 and 20 are amended. No new matter is added.

I. Restriction Requirement

Applicants request that the Restriction Requirement be withdrawn in light of the amendments to the withdrawn claims.

II. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1 and 4-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,309,054 to Yamamoto et al. ("Yamamoto"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants assert that Yamamoto does not disclose each and every feature recited in the rejected claims. For example, Yamamoto does not disclose a method of assembling a lead wire on a starter, comprising steps of bending a lead wire for connecting a starting motor and a magnet switch to form a first bent portion and a second bent portion; integrally molding a sleeve with the lead wire so as to tightly fix to the second bent portion of the lead wire; and inserting an end of the sleeve facing to the first bent portion of the lead wire to a housing of the starting motor so as to seal an outer periphery of the sleeve and an insertion portion of the housing, as recited in independent claim 1.

Yamamoto relates to a "leading-out device" or a lead wire of a DC motor wherein a lead wire portion connected to a main circuit conductor of the motor and led outside is improved (col. 1, lines 7-10 of Yamamoto). In Yamamoto, a leading-out portion of the lead wire 21 is composed of twisted wires at an end side thereof passing through a grommet 13 formed in a semicircular flattened form. The leading out portion of lead wire 26 is pressed and deformed as shown in Figs. 1B and 2B. The lead-out wire 21 is bent in an axial direction with respect to a portion thereof above the grommet 13. The bent portion is fitted with an

insulation tube 14, an end of which is fitted to an upper end portion of the grommet 13 (col. 4, lines 8-52). As shown in Figs. 2A and 6A the lead wire 21, 121 is composed of twisted wires by forming the constricted portion 21, 121B, and is bent at an angle of 90 degrees or the like (see Figs. 2A and 6A and col. 5, lines 39-42).

Thus, Yamamoto does not disclose bending a lead wire to form a first bent portion and a second bent portion, integrally molding a sleeve with a lead wire so as to tightly fix to the second bent portion of the lead wire and inserting an end of the sleeve facing to the first bent portion of the lead wire to a housing of the starting motor so as to seal outer peripheral of the sleeve and an insertion portion in the housing. In other words, Yamamoto does not disclose bending the wire before the molding or inserting steps. Rather, Yamamoto discloses that the lead wire 21 is passed through a portion of the grommet 13 and then bent.

In contrast, independent claim 1 recites that the wire is bent and a sleeve is entered and molded to the bent portion. Accordingly, Yamamoto suffers from the problems identified in the background of the invention of the application which the Applicants resolve using the method recited in the claims. In other words, the problem that results by inserting the lead wire through the grommet and then bending the lead wire, whereby the rubber sleeve around the lead wire (i.e., the grommet) tends to be deformed by stress caused by bending the lead wire (see Background of the Invention, page 1, line 25-page 2, line 1). Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the rejection of claims 1 and 4-10 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) be withdrawn.

III. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 2 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over JP 3009069 to Hasegawa. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants submit that claims 2 and 3 are allowable for at least their dependency on independent claim 1 for the reasons discussed above, as well as for the additional features recited therein.

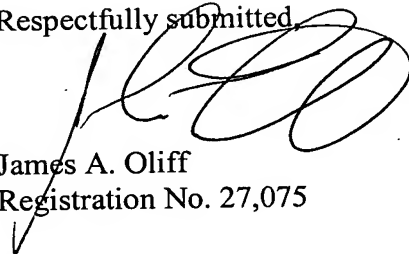
Furthermore, as Hasegawa does not overcome the deficiencies of Yamamoto, Applicants request the rejection of claims 2 and 3 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-20 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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